

ISSUE DATE <p>May 1, 2020</p>	EFFECTIVE DATE <p>February 4, 2020</p>	NUMBER <p>01-20-05, 08-20-09, 09-20-04, 28-20-01, 31-20-04, 33-20-02</p>
SUBJECT <p>Addition of Coronavirus Laboratory Test Codes to the MA Program Fee Schedule</p>		BY  <p>Sally A. Kozak, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs</p>

IMPORTANT REMINDER: All providers must revalidate the Medical Assistance (MA) enrollment of each service location every 5 years. Providers should log into PROMISe to check the revalidation dates of each service location and submit revalidation applications at least 60 days prior to the revalidation dates. Enrollment (revalidation) applications may be found at: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/PROMISe-Enrollment.aspx>.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to notify providers that the Department of Human Services (Department) is adding procedure codes for Coronavirus (COVID-19) laboratory tests to the Medical Assistance (MA) Program Fee Schedule effective with dates of service on and after February 4, 2020

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to physicians, certified registered nurse practitioners (CRNPs), certified nurse midwives (CNMs), acute care general hospitals (hospitals), outpatient laboratories and clinics that are enrolled in the Medical Assistance (MA) Program and render services to MA beneficiaries in the fee-for-service delivery system and the managed care delivery system. Physicians, CRNPs, CNMs, hospitals, outpatient laboratories and clinics that render services to MA beneficiaries in the managed care delivery system should address any billing, prior authorization or payment related questions to the appropriate managed care organization (MCO).

BACKGROUND:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently advised all Medicaid agencies to take action to ensure clinical laboratories are prepared to test for Coronavirus. Specifically, CMS and the American Medical Association (AMA) developed new Healthcare

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

The appropriate toll free number for your provider type.

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at:

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/Health%20Care%20for%20Providers/Contact-Information-for-Providers.aspx>

Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) and Current Procedure Terminology (CPT) codes to allow providers, with the applicable CLIA certification, to bill and track COVID-19 virus tests.

CMS announced the addition of two HCPCS codes intended for use to test and track services related to COVID-19. In response to the CMS announcements to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the Department added the laboratory test codes to the MA Program Fee Schedule, effective with dates of services on and after February 4, 2020 as follows:

- HCPCS code U0001, defined as “CDC 2019 - novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) real-time RT-PCR diagnostic panel,” is to be used specifically by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) laboratories to test patients for SARS-CoV-2.
- HCPCS code U0002, defined as “2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets), non-CDC” is to be used specifically for by laboratories to test non-CDC laboratory tests for SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19).

The AMA [announced](#) the establishment of (3) new CPT codes to efficiently report and track testing services related to COVID-19.

The Department added the following laboratory test code to the MA Program Fee Schedule, effective with dates of services on and after March 13, 2020.

- CPT code 87635, defined as “Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), amplified probe technique.”

The Department added the laboratory test codes to the MA Program Fee Schedule, effective with dates of services on and after April 10, 2020 as follows:

- CPT code 86328, defined as “Immunoassay for infectious agent antibody(ies), qualitative or semiquantitative, single step method (e.g., reagent strip); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]).”
- CPT code 86769, defined as “Antibody; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]).”

On April 14, 2020, CMS [announced](#) the creation of two new HCPCS Level II codes for laboratory tests that use high-throughput technologies to detect SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. The Department added the laboratory test codes to the MA Program Fee Schedule, effective with dates of service on and after April 14, 2020, as follows:

- HCPCS code U0003, defined as “Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)

(Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), amplified probe technique, making use of high throughput technologies as described by CMS-2020-01-R”.

- HCPCS code U0004, defined as “2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets), non-CDC, making use of high throughput technologies as described by CMS-2020-01-R”.

On April 24, 2020, CMS [announced](#) that effective March 20, 2020, Medicare will permit the use of HCPCS code U0002 QW and CPT code 87635 QW for claims submitted by facilities with a valid, current Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) certificate of waiver.

The Department updated the MA Program Fee Schedule to allow the use of the QW modifier for HCPCS code U0002 and CPT code 87635, effective with dates of services on and after March 20, 2020.

The CDC noted that it will continue to review medical information related to the COVID-19 virus. Providers are encouraged to monitor the CDC website for updated information and clinical guidance on the COVID-19 virus by accessing the website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/COVID-19/2019-ncov/index.html>.

DISCUSSION:

Consistent with the Administration’s commitment to ensuring the health and safety of all Commonwealth citizens, the Department added the Coronavirus laboratory testing procedure codes to the MA Program Fee Schedule as follows:

Procedure Code	Procedure Code Description	Provider Type/ Specialty	Place of Service	MA Fee	Limits	Prior Authorization Required
U0001	CDC 2019 Novel Coronavirus Real Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Test Panel	01/183 01/016 01/017 28/280	22 23 23 81	\$28.07	1 to 3 per day	No
U0002	2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes	01/183 01/183 01/016 01/016 01/017 01/017 08/082 08/082	22 22/QW 23 23/QW 23 23/QW 49 49/QW	\$28.07	1 to 3 per day	No

	(includes all targets), non-CDC	09/All 09/All 28/280 28/280 31/All 31/All 33/335 33/335	11 11/QW 81 81/QW 11 11/QW 11 11/QW			
U0003	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), amplified probe technique	01/183 28/280	22 81	\$80	1 per day	No
U0004	2019-nCoV Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2/2019-nCoV (COVID-19), any technique, multiple types or subtypes (includes all targets), non-CDC	01/183 28/280	22 81	\$80	1 per day	No
87635	Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]), amplified probe technique	01/183 01/183 01/016 01/016 01/017 01/017 08/082 08/082 09/All 09/All 28/280 28/280 31/All 31/All	22 22/QW 23 23/QW 23 23/QW 49 49/QW 11 11/QW 81 81/QW 11 11/QW	\$35.49	1 per day	No

		33/335 33/335	11 11/QW			
86328	Immunoassay for infectious agent antibody(ies), qualitative or semiquantitative, single step method (e.g., reagent strip); severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])	01/183 28/280	22 81	\$5.58	1 per day	No
86769	Antibody; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19])	01/183 28/280	22 81	\$11.16	1 per day	No

PROCEDURE:

Providers are to bill and the Department will pay for COVID-19 laboratory testing as described above.

Information on MA Program coverage related to COVID-19, to include an FAQ document, can be found on the Department of Human Services website [here](#).

The Pennsylvania Department of Health has a dedicated page for COVID-19 that provides regular updates. Click [here](#) for the most up to date information regarding COVID-19.